Mid-day Meal Scheme

201. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start Mid-day Meal Scheme in the government primary schools for poor students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the number of students benefited as a result thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Mid-day Meal Scheme is already being implemented for children studying in primary classes (l-V) in Government, Local body and Government aided schools, as also in Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education (EGS & AIE) centers.

During 2003-04, about 10.57 crore children benefited from the programme.

(c) Question does not arise.

Amendments in UGC Act

202. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to improve administration of the universities and to foster academic excellence and research, Government are thinking of amending the UGC Act;

(b) if so, the amendments proposed by his Ministry;

(c) whether the proposal also includes regulation of activities of the foreign universities into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) While proposals to amend the UGC Act have been under consideration